

# DORIS RADIATA.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Corpus* repens, oblongum, subtus planum.

*Os* antice subtus.

*Anus* postice, supra cinctus ciliis.

*Tentacula* duo, supra corpus antice, intra foramina retractilia.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 1083.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

DORIS ex argenteo cærulea, subtus alba, papillis lateralibus fasciculato-radiatis.

## DORIS RADIATA.

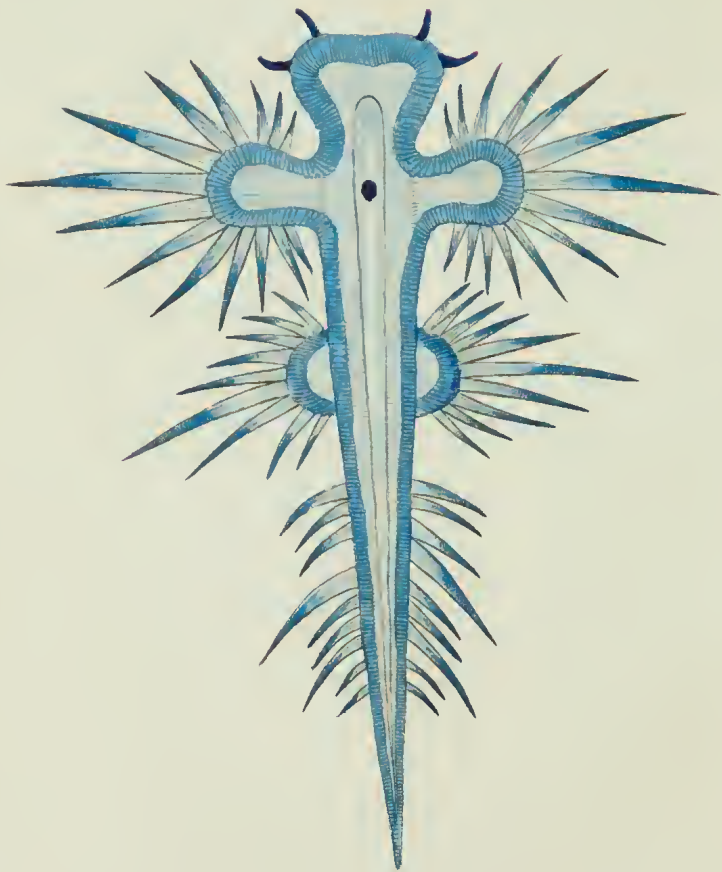
*Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel.* p. 3105.

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Ad quam familiam revera pertineat marinum hoc animal difficile est primo visu pro certo statuere; mira adeo ei et ambigua est facies. Generi tamen *Doris* conjunctius videtur quam alii alicui, in quo etiam ordinatur a Gmelinio, in auctiore sua editione Systematis Linnæani. Formæ singulari accedit color pulcherrimus, scilicet cæruleo-pallens argento quasi obductus, margine corporis et apicibus omnibus tentaculorum summopere cyaneis. Magna est

ei contractionis vis, unde fit ut ad libitum nunc magis, nunc minus, extensum videatur. Longitudo communis unciam paulo superat. Ostenditur animal in tabula paulo auctum microscopio, ut variae partes dilucidius appareant. Ut solent pleraque hujus generis, vel innatat summo mari, vel prope superficiem. Conspicitur praecipue in oceano Indiae occidentalis.





THE  
RADIATED DORIS.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Body* repent, oblong, flat beneath.

*Mouth* placed below, towards the anterior end.

*Vent* behind, surrounded by a fringe.

*Tentacula* two, seated on the upper part of the body in front, retractile.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SILVER-BLUE DORIS, white beneath, with lateral extensile radiato-fasciculated papillæ.

DORIS RADIATA.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* Gmel. p. 3105.

*Phil. Transf.* Vol. 53. p. 57. t. 3.

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So very singular is the appearance of this curious marine animal, that at first view it is not easy to guess to what tribe of beings it should with the greatest propriety be referred. The genus, however, to which it seems most nearly allied, and in which it is placed in the enlarged edition of the *Systema Naturæ*, by Dr. Gmelin, is that of *Doris*. The

singularity of its form is equalled by the elegance of its color, which is a beautiful pale blue, with a gloss of silver, while the margin of the whole body, and the tips of all the processes with which it is beset are of the richest deep blue. It possesses a high degree of muscular power, and appears occasionally in various states of contraction and extension. Its general length is somewhat more than an inch, the figure being slightly magnified, in order to shew the several parts with a greater degree of distinctness. Like others of this genus it swims principally on or near the surface of the sea, and is chiefly found in the West-Indian ocean.